

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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R 050915Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0277
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS MUNICH 02192

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU TAKES OVER MUNICH GOVERNMENT

REF: MUNICH 1246

1. ON MAY 3, 1978, A CSU LORD MAYOR ASSUMED OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 30 YEARS. HE WILL BE BACKED, MOREOVER, BY THE FIRST CSU MAJORITY IN THE MUNICH CITY COUNCIL IN THE POST WWII ERA.
2. THE NEW CITY COUNCIL ELECTED DR. WINFRIED ZEHETMEIER, HERETOFORE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CSU CAUCUS IN THE MUNICH CITY COUNCIL, AS THE FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR. HELMUT GITTEL, THE OUTGOING FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR AND SPD RENEGADE WHO CONTESTED THE RECENT LORD MAYOR ELECTIONS AS HEAD OF THE SOCIAL CITY COUNCIL BLOCK, HAS BEEN ELECTED SECOND DEPUTY MAYOR.

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3. KIESL, ZEHETMEIER AND GITTEL INHERIT A CITY ADMINISTRATION WHOSE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY INCUMBENTS APPOINTED BY PREVIOUS SPD-CONTROLLED CITY COUNCILS. EACH DEPARTMENT CHIEF HAS A SIX YEAR CONTRACT, AND THESE CONTRACTS WILL EXPIRE ON A STAGGERED BASIS BEGINNING IN 1979.

4. IN ORDER TO ENSURE HIS CONTROL OF THE MUNICH CITY ADMINISTRATION, KIESL HAS DEVISED A NEW PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL, WHICH SEEMS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, THIS NEW PROCEDURE WILL GIVE KIESL THE RIGHT TO CLEAR ANY FORMAL POLICY STATEMENTS WHICH INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENT CHIEFS MAKE BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. THIS NEW PROCEDURE IS CLEARLY DIRECTED AT MAX VON HECKEL, THE CITY TREASURER WHO WAS KIESL'S SPD OPPONENT IN THE MARCH 5 LORD MAYOR ELECTION, AS WELL AS DR. KLAUS HAHNZOG, A LEADING EXPONENT OF THE LEFT WING IN THE MUNICH SPD.

5. AT A MEETING WITH THE MUNICH PRESS APRIL 28, KIESL INDICATED THAT THE CSU AND FDP WOULD COOPERATE CLOSELY IN THE NEW CITY COUNCIL. HE HINTED THAT HE MIGHT OFFER THE FDP THE SECOND DEPUTY MAYOR SLOT IN 1980. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT HELMUT GITTEL INTENDS TO STEP DOWN TO REPLACE VON HECKEL AS CITY TREASURER WHEN THE LATTER'S CONTRACT EXPIRES IN 1980. BETTS

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